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E18

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ACTION AF-01

INFO	LOG-00	CIAE-00	CPR-02	C-01	OASY-00	DODE-00	HA-09
	H-01	TEDE-00	INR-00	L-03	ADS-00	MOFM-04	MOF-03
	NSAE-00	NSCE-00	OMB-01	PA-01	PM-02	PRS-01	P-01
	SNP-00	SP-00	SS-00	TRSE-00	T-00	USIE-00	RPE-01
	CORE-00	/031W					

-----08B09A 240751Z /38

R 240742Z NOV 93  
FM AMEMBASSY KIGALI  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5093  
INFO AMEMBASSY BUJUMBURA  
AMEMBASSY KAMPALA  
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

C O N F I D E N T I A L KIGALI 04163

E.O. 12356: DECL:OADR  
TAGS: PREL, ODIP, RW  
SUBJECT: RWANDANS WANT THE U.S. INVOLVED

1. CONFIDENTIAL - ENTIRE TEXT.

2. AS AMBASSADOR FLATEN MADE HIS FAREWELL CALLS IN  
RWANDA, ONE THEME WAS UNDERScoreD AGAIN AND AGAIN:  
RWANDANS WANT THE UNITED STATES ENGAGED IN THEIR  
SEARCH FOR LASTING PEACE AND FOR A DEMOCRATIC  
POLITICAL SYSTEM.. ANOTHER THEME STRUCK BY THE  
RWANDANS WAS THEIR COMMITMENT TO THE ARUSHA PEACE

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PROCESS. THE PRESIDENT MADE THESE POINTS. MINISTER  
AFTER MINISTER MADE THESE POINTS. THE RPF MADE THESE  
SAME POINTS.

3. PRESIDENT HABYARIMANA EXPRESSED HIS APPRECIATION  
FOR THE SUPPORT OF THE AMBASSADOR AND THE UNITED  
STATES BY INVITING HIM AND MRS. FLATEN TO HIS  
RESIDENCE FOR AN INFORMAL EVENING OF DRINKS ON THE  
EVE OF THE AMBASSADOR'S DEPARTURE. BESIDES THE

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
REVIEW AUTHORITY: JOHN L. MILLS  
DATE/CASE ID: 19 NOV 2002 200003723

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PRESIDENT, HIS WIFE AND THE FLATENS, ONLY FORMER PRIME MINISTER NSANZIMANA, NOW COUNSELOR TO THE PRESIDENT, WAS PRESENT.

4. THE GOVERNMENT UNDERScored ITS APPRECIATION FOR THE AMBASSADOR'S CONTRIBUTION TO THE DEMOCRATIZATION AND PEACE PROCESSES BY AWARDING HIM THE "ORDER OF THE MILLES COLLINES (THOUSAND HILLS)," RWANDA'S HIGHEST HONOR. THE AWARD WAS PRESENTED AT A STATE DINNER OFFERED BY THE MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS. IN ATTENDANCE WERE ALL THE MINISTERS OF THE GOVERNMENT, LEADERS OF ALL POLITICAL PARTIES, AND THE DIPLOMATIC CORPS.

5. THROUGHOUT THE WEEK OF AMBASSADOR FLATEN'S FAREWELL CALLS, THE PRESS COVERED HIM EXTENSIVELY. MOST OF THE MINISTERS ISSUED PRESS RELEASES THAT AFFORDED AMPLE AIR-TIME TO THE THEMES OF U.S. SUPPORT FOR PEACE AND DEMOCRACY. THE AMBASSADOR'S TOAST AT THE STATE DINNER WAS AIRED ALMOST IN ITS ENTIRETY THE FOLLOWING MORNING.

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6. THE AMBASSADOR USED THE OCCASION TO EMPHASIZE THE IMPORTANCE THE U.S. ATTACHES TO CONTINUED PROGRESS TOWARD PEACE AND DEMOCRACY. HE TOLD HIS VARIOUS INTERLOCUTORS THAT AS LONG AS RWANDA KEPT MAKING PROGRESS, THE UNITED STATES WOULD OFFER ITS SUPPORT.

7. COMMENT. THROUGHOUT HIS TENURE, AMBASSADOR FLATEN HAS MAINTAINED A DIALOGUE WITH RWANDANS OF ALL POLITICAL TENDANCIES. FOR THIS HE WON FOR HIMSELF AND THE UNITED STATES THE RESPECT OF RWANDANS WHO ARE STRIVING TO SHAPE A NEW POLITICAL FUTURE FOR THEIR COUNTRY. THIS APPROACH HAS SERVED AS A MODEL, AND AN INSPIRATION, FOR RWANDANS THEMSELVES WHO HAVE FOUND IT DIFFICULT AT TIMES TO TALK TO THE OPPOSITION. END COMMENT.

FLATEN

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